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Agricultural Memorandum No 442

Estimated Return to Capacity Dates and Excess Winter Rains 1971-72

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Working on the lines of MAFF Technical Bulletin No 24, the following results were obtained:-

			Return	Excess (in)	Average Excess	Percentage
Northern Region	Cumberland	Carlisle	Oct 1	10.6	14.4	75
		Newton Rigg	Oct 2	14.0	16.6	85
	Durham	Cockle Park	Nov 2	10.5	10.8	95
		Tynemouth	Nov 3	6.5	8.2	80
		Durham	Dec 3	7.4	9.3	80
	Northumberland	Berwick	Jan 1	44.5	7.2	60
		Bellingham	Oct 2	13.9	16.1	85
	Westmorland	Ambleside	Aug 1	35.4	52.0	70
	North Riding	Ampleforth	Nov 1	10.5	11.4	90
Yorks Lancs Region	Lancashire	Morecombe	Oct 3	9.3	18.2	50
		Bolton	Oct 1	21.8	25.4	85
		Blackpool	Nov 3	7.2	15.0	50
		Manchester	Nov 2	8.3	14.3	60
	East Riding	Hull	Nov 3	6.1	7.7	80
		Lowthorpe	Nov 2	7.5	8.7	85
	West Riding	Ilkley	Nov 1	12.4	17.3	70
		Wakefield	Nov 3	6.1	8.6	70
		Askham Bryan	Dec 3	5.0	7.7	65
West Midland Region	Cheshire	Delamere	Nov 1	10.0	13.1	75
	Hereford	Ross-on-Wye	Dec 1	9.2	9.7	95
	Shropshire	Shrewsbury	Nov 2	6.6	7.5	90
	Stafford	Hanley	Nov 1	8.7	13.3	65
		Walsall	Nov 2	9.4	10.6	90
	Warwick	Birmingham	Nov 2	11.2	12.3	90
		Wellesbourne	Nov 3	6.7	7.1	95
	Worcester	Redhill	Nov 3	8.2	7.7	105
East Midland Region	Derby	Belper	Oct 2	13.0	11.4	115
	Leicester	Newtown Linford	Nov 2	7.6	9.5	80
	Lincoln	Cranwell	Jan 2	2.3	5.3	45
		Cleethorpes	Jan 1	3.5	6.5	55
	Northampton	Kettering	Jan 3	1.6	7.1	25
		Towcester	Nov 3	6.2	9.0	70
	Nottingham	Finningley	Jan 1	4.4	5.2	85
		Mansfield	Nov 2	9.2	8.8	105
		Sutton Bonington	Dec 3	4.8	7.0	70
	Rutland	Tixover	Jan 2	2.3	6.7	35

			Return	Excess (in)	Average Excess	Percentage
East Region	Bedford	Sandy	Nov 2	6.4	5.2	125
	Cambridge	March	Dec 3	3.1	5.5	55
		Cambridge	Dec 2	3.6	4.7	75
	Essex	Rickstones	Jan 1	3.1	4.7	65
		Saffron Walden	Nov 3	5.7	5.4	105
	Hertford	Rothamsted	Nov 3	8.1	8.4	95
	Huntingdom	Houghton	Jan 1	2.9	5.0	60
	Holland	Spalding	Jan 1	3.3	6.4	50
	Norfolk	Kings Lynn	Dec 1	5.7	5.5	105
		Marham	Nov 3	6.0	6.7	90
		Norwich	Nov 3	5.0	6.6	75
	Suffolk	Lowestoft	Nov 3	2.7	5.9	45
		Mildenhall	Nov 3	4.2	4.0	105
		E.Bergholt	Dec 3	4.5	5.8	75
SE Region	Berkshire	Reading	Dec 1	5.6	6.8	85
		Wantage	Nov 2	8.7	10.1	85
	Buckingham	Newport Pagnell	Nov 3	5.3	6.4	85
		Gt.Missenden	Nov 2	9.6	10.9	85
	Hampshire	S.Farnborough	Nov 3	7.1	7.8	90
		Southsea	Jan 1	6.2	9.3	65
		Leckford	Dec 1	10.3	12.3	85
		Bournemouth	Jan 1	9.0	11.7	75
		Ryde	Jan 2	5.7	11.0	50
	Kent	Swanley	Jan 1	2.6	5.5	45
		Margate	Feb 1	0.8	4.9	20
		Wye	Jan 1	4.0	10.2	40
		E.Malling	Jan 1	3.6	8.2	45
	Middlesex	Southgate	Nov 2	6.9	7.4	95
	Oxford	Chipping Norton	Nov 2	8.9	10.0	90
		Oxford	Oct 3	8.7	8.0	110
	Surrey	Kew	Nov 3	5.0	5.5	90
		Croydon	Jan 1	6.0	7.3	85
	Sussex	Bodiam	Nov 2	7.7	12.6	60
		Chichester	Dec 1	6.7	11.4	60
SW Region	Cornwall	St Austell	Nov 1	23.0	26.4	85
		St Mawgan	Nov 1	19.2	17.5	110
		Lizard	Nov 3	11.1	15.0	75
	Devon	Hartland Point	Nov 3	9.7	15.1	65
		Plymouth	Nov 3	14.0	17.8	80
		Exeter	Dec 1	15.0	11.3	130
	Dorset	Blandford	Dec 2	13.4	14.3	95
	Gloucester	Bristol	Oct 2	14.0	12.7	110
		Cheltenham	Nov 3	8.5	8.5	100
	Somerset	Martock	Dec 1	11.6	9.9	115
		Cannington	Nov 3	11.8	10.3	115
	Wiltshire	Lacock	Nov 2	6.9	10.4	65
		Boscombe Down	Jan 1	8.3	10.7	80

			Return	Excess (in)	Average Excess	Percentage
Welsh Region	Anglesey	Llwydiarth	Oct 2	15.0	20.0	75
	Brecon	Brecon	Oct 1	31.8	23.7	135
	Caernarvon	Conway	Oct 1	23.8	11.3	210
	Cardigan	Aberporth	Aug 2	18.2	20.7	90
	Carmarthen	Carmarthen	Oct 1	22.1	30.8	70
	Denbigh	Denbigh	Nov 1	11.6	13.3	85
		Wrexham	Oct 3	15.4	15.4	100
	Flint	Hanmer	Nov 1	10.2	11.1	90
	Glamorgan	Cardiff	Oct 1	17.4	21.9	80
	Merioneth	Arthog	Aug 2	26.0	28.0	95
		Derwen	Oct 2	15.2	20.7	75
	Monmouth	Usk	Nov 1	15.1	19.5	80
	Montgomery	Welshpool	Oct 2	12.7	15.3	85
	Pembroke	Pembroke	Oct 1	24.0	20.6	115
	Radnor	Radnor	Oct 1	18.6	22.3	85

From these figures it is clear that most areas of England and Wales had less than average excess winter rain in 1971-72.

The only region with more than normal was the stretch from mid-Devon to south Worcestershire, although parts of Brecon, Pembroke and Caernarvon were also above average.

Three regions were conspicuously lower than average, the area between mid-Northamptonshire and the Humber, most of Kent and the coastal areas of Lancashire

Less than 5 inches of excess winter rain was experienced east of a line Doncaster-Bedford - Chelmsford - Tonbridge.

Any comments or suggestions on this paper should be referred to the author.

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